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Out Of Commission

The Warren Commission Report has been issued to the public. It contained nothing that had not been carefully "leaked" to the newspaper weeks or even months before.

It is a statement that the evidence has been examined by a panel of responsible men, headed by an astute jurist; and the evidence indicates that Oswald did it, alone.

This is to say, the evidence that was available. This Commission made the most rigorous examination of all the facts they were able to gather, and the country is indebted to Justice Warren and his group for their conscientious work.

While they have done us a service by setting to rest false rumors and wild speculation, please note that they did not attempt to slam the door on history. "Because of the difficulty of proving negatives to a certainty the possibility of others being involved with either Oswald or Ruby cannot be established categorically."

"If there is any such evidence ... it has not come to the attention of this Commission".

A major weakness in the investigation is the fact that most of it was a consideration of materials already gathered by other agencies, and that the Commission felt compelled to accept as truth whatever was given them by these agencies.

The American people recoil in horror from any consideration of the possibility that a plot might have operated either from or through forces within the government. The Warren Commission appears to have shared this aversion. Perhaps the whole populace that lived through these times may have to pass away before our descendants can look at the crime in the way detectives examine an ordinary murder case, and ask the questions that naturally follow.

We shall for our lifetime continue to be astonished by several facets of the case.

Agents of the FBI and the CIA appear to have visited Oswald a number of times before the assassination. These contacts, it is explained, "were made in the regular exercise of their different responsibilities."

The FBI made up no list of dangerous subversives, nor checked on their whereabouts, before the President's visit. Such information it is their responsibility to provide to the Secret Service in advance of any trip by the President.

Dallas was seething with John Birch Society fanatics and other

hate groups, and was acknowledged the most dangerous city in the nation for John F. Kennedy to visit yet the Secret Service made no effort whatever to check on the occupants of buildings along the parade route. At the inauguration there were dozens of marksmen on the roofs, watching with binoculars the windows of the buildings opposite. Why none in Dallas?

Even more difficult to believe, a portion of Kennedy's Secret Service bodyguard was out drinking till 3 a.m. and even 5 a.m. before going on duty at 8 a.m. Have you ever stayed up till 3 a.m., and then attempted anything that requires quick reflexes and physical performance?

Although this is flatly against regulations, none of these men have been discharged. Instead, the only Negro member of the Secret Service, who revealed the drinking-on-duty infractions to the newspapers, was himself discharged on the claim he had tried to sell information to someone.

Why was Allen Dulles a member of the Warren Commission? As former head of our "secret government", the Central Intelligence Agency, he was the man directly responsible for botching the invasion of Cuba. President Kennedy had replaced him for mismanagement and his arrogant attempt to take over American foreign policy. Kennedy had also threatened to shake up the entire CIA, "from top to bottom".

What is this farce about Oswald's attempting to kill General Walker, super-patriot hero of the Birchers and the oil billionaires of Texas? The Warren Commission accepts with a straight face that Marine Sharpshooter Oswald, from the sixth floor, could hit a man in a moving automobile on the street below with every shot but the same marksman, with the same rifle, fired at General Walker from the concealment of darkness outside his window, as he sat perfectly still in his chair — and missed! Based on what we know -- or can know -- at this time, the Warren Commission has set the record straight.

(Perhaps the greatest lesson in it is the unspoken conclusion that there is nothing more dangerous than to raise up a human being without love.)

For the purposes of history, just remember that exhaustive investigations after the death of Lincoln gave no hint of what we now know; that the murder plot originated with a member of the President's own cabinet, probably Stanton, the Secretary of War. John Wilkes Booth was described at the time as "a madman" with no recognition that madmen sometimes are used by others as instruments of destruction.

And one more thing ... the guard assigned to President Lincoln spent that fatal evening drinking, too!